AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of automatically maintaining configuration information of a replaceable electronic module, comprising:

receiving an indication that the replaceable electronic module has been installed;

receiving from the replaceable electronic module first configuration information identifying capabilities of the replaceable electronic module to utilize permitted portions of its hardware or to execute permitted software; and

storing at least some of the first configuration information received from the replaceable electronic module in a first persistent memory that is not on the replaceable electronic module and that is thereafter accessible by a replaceable electronic module manager regardless of whether the replaceable electronic module remains installed or is subsequently uninstalled.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing the first configuration information in a second persistent memory on the replaceable electronic module; and

using the first configuration information stored in the second persistent memory to enable a hardware capability of the replaceable electronic module.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing the first configuration information in a second persistent memory on the replaceable electronic module; and

using the first configuration information stored in the second persistent memory to enable software to be executed by the replaceable electronic module.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving an indication that the replaceable electronic module has been replaced with a replacement replaceable electronic module;

fetching at least some of the first configuration information from the first persistent memory;

sending the fetched first configuration information to the replacement replaceable electronic module; and

storing at least some of the sent first configuration information in a second persistent memory on the replacement replaceable electronic module.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein fetching the stored first configuration information comprises:

using a location, in which the replacement replaceable electronic module was installed, to select the stored first configuration information from among other information stored in the first persistent memory.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

receiving from the replacement replaceable electronic module second information; and

wherein fetching the stored first configuration information comprises using at least part of the received second information to select the stored first configuration information from among other information stored in the first persistent memory.

7. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

using the stored first configuration information in the second persistent memory to enable a hardware capability of the replacement replaceable electronic module, wherein a corresponding hardware capability was enabled on the replaceable electronic module, which was replaced.

8. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

storing the sent first configuration information in a second persistent memory on the replaceable electronic module; and

using the stored first configuration information to enable software to be executed by the replacement replaceable electronic module, wherein corresponding software was enabled to be executed by the replaceable electronic module, which was replaced.

9. (Previously Presented) A method of automatically maintaining configuration information of a replaceable electronic module, comprising:

receiving an indication that the replaceable electronic module has been installed;

automatically detecting if the replaceable electronic module is a replacement replaceable electronic module that replaces a previously installed replaceable electronic module by comparing configuration information stored in the replaceable electronic module with configuration stored in a persistent memory that is not on the previously installed nor on other installed replaceable electronic modules; and

if the replaceable electronic module is a replacement replaceable electronic module for the previously installed replaceable electronic module, sending previously stored first configuration information to the replacement replaceable electronic module.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

storing the sent first configuration information in a persistent memory on the replacement replaceable electronic module; and

using the first configuration information stored on the replacement replaceable electronic module to enable a hardware capability of the replacement replaceable electronic module.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein:

the enabled hardware capability of the replacement replaceable electronic module corresponds to a hardware capability that was enabled on the previously installed replaceable electronic module, which was replaced.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

storing the sent first configuration information in a persistent memory on the replacement replaceable electronic module; and

using the first configuration information stored on the replacement replaceable electronic module to enable software to be executed by the replacement replaceable electronic module.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein:

the software enabled to be executed by the replacement replaceable electronic module corresponds to software that was enabled to be executed by the previously installed replaceable electronic module, which was replaced.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the automatically detecting comprises:

receiving second information from the replacement replaceable electronic module; and

analyzing the received second information.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the analyzing comprises:

comparing at least a portion of the received second information to the previously stored first configuration information.

16. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the automatically detecting comprises:

comparing a location, in which the replacement replaceable electronic module was installed, to a location in which the previously installed replaceable electronic module, which was replaced, was installed.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of upgrading a replaceable electronic module, comprising:

storing configuration information in a persistent memory on the replaceable electronic module, wherein the configuration information specifies that a capability of the replaceable electronic module is not enabled;

modifying the configuration information stored in the persistent memory on the replaceable electronic module to enable the previously unenabled capability of the replacement electronic module; and

storing the modified configuration information in a persistent memory located off the replaceable electronic module.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the previously unenabled capability is a hardware capability or an ability to execute software.

19-43. (Canceled).